

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00
(ISO) W

-----127940 131352Z /10

O R 101150Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2561
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
USDOCOSOUTH
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 5041

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED)

MIL ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TU, GR
SUBJ: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON GREEK AND TURKISH SECGENS MEETING

REF: ANKARA 4978 (DTG 070820Z JUL 78)

SUMMARY: MFA OFFICIAL REPORTS THAT GREEK AND TURKISH
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NEGOTIATORS DID NOT PRESENT DRAFT NON-AGGRESSION AGREEMENTS.
TURKS SUGGESTED THAT THE MORE COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT
THEY PREFER BE MODELED ON THE BILATERAL GREEK/TURKISH
TREATY OF 1930. HE CONFIRMED THAT SOME PROGRESS WAS
MADE ON THE FIR AND THAT THE TWO SIDES REMAIN FAR APART
ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. HE INDICATED THAT TURKS WOULD
BE WILLING TO SIGN A POLITICAL DOCUMENT IN THE ABSENCE

OF FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE TWO AEGEAN QUESTIONS. END
SUMMARY.

1. DURING CALL JULY 7 MFA DIRECTOR FOR GREEK/CYPRUS AFFAIRS
INAL BATU PROVIDED ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE SECGENS'
MEETINGS JULY 4-5 IN WHICH HE PARTICIPATED. IN TERMS OF
ATMOSPHERICS, BATU CONFIRMED THAT THE TURKS HAD BEEN
VERY PLEASED WITH THE BUSINESSLIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH
OF THE GREEK DELEGATION. THE MEETING WITH ECEVIT HAD GONE
PARTICULARLY WELL. ECEVIT HAD BEEN IMPRESSED WITH
THEODOROPOULOS, WHO HAD BEEN QUITE EFFUSIVE IN EXPRESSING
KARAMANLIS' CONFIDENCE IN AND RESPECT FOR ECEVIT. THE
LATTER RESPONDED IN KIND.

2. CONTRARY TO THE IMPRESSION LEFT BY ELEKDAG (REFTEL),
BATU SAID THE GREEKS HAD NOT PRESENTED A DRAFT NON-AGGRESSION
TREATY BUT HAD DESCRIBED IN SOME DETAIL THEIR IDEAS. THEIR
CONCEPT WAS A VERY SHORT DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A
DECLARATION OF PEACEFUL INTENT AND PROVIDE FOR EXCHANGES OF
MILITARY INFORMATION. THE TURKISH SIDE RESPONDED THAT THEY
HAD IN MIND A MORE COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD
LARGELY BE A REQORKING OF THE 1930 BILATERAL GREEK/TURKISH
TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, NEUTRALITY, CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION.
BATU DOES NOT EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE ANY FURTHER
EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT UNTIL THE SECGENS MEET IN
SEPTEMBER. HE THINKS THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WILL BE
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GETTING TOGETHER TO SEE IF THEY CAN "SHORTEN" THEIR LIST OF
ITEMS TO BE COVERED IN SUCH AN AGREEMENT, AND HE HOPES
THAT THE GREEK SIDE WILL GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO "LENGTHENING"
ITS LIST.

3. BATU SAID THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT INSIST ON A COMPRE-
HENSIVE AGREEMENT COVERING ALL OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES.
IT WOULD BE ENOUGH IF THE GREEKS AGREE NOT TO MAKE ANY
UNILATERAL CHANGES IN THE PRESENT SIX MILE TERRITORIAL SEA,
IN EXCHANGE FOR WHICH TURKEY WOULD GUARANTEE THE PRESENT
BORDERS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IN RESPONSE TO A
QUESTION, HE SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT SUCH A DOCUMENT COULD
BE SIGNED IN THE ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT ON THE FIR AND THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF.

4. ON THE FIR ISSUE, ELKDAG AND THEODOROPOULOS HAD
PRIVATELY WORKED OUT GUIDELINES FOR THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH
WILL TAKE PLACE AMONG THE EXPERTS. THEY DIVIDED THE ISSUES
INTO THREE SEGMENTS:

A. TECHNICAL ISSUES. THESE INCLUDED THE QUESTIONS OF AIR
CORRIDORS AND THE AREA AROUND LEMNOS. REGARDING THE LATTER

ISSUE, BATU SAID THAT AT MONTREUX KARAMANLIS HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE GREEKS HAD GONE TOO FAR IN ESTABLISHING THE AIR CONTROL ZONE AROUND LEMNOS. KARAMANLIS REPORTEDLY PROMISED THAT THIS MATTER COULD BE REMEDIED. THE EXPERTS WOULD MEET WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING IN MIND. (BATO SAID THAT ELKDAG'S COMMENT (REFTEL) REGARDING THE GREEK "UNILATERAL 3,000 SQUARE MILE EXTENSION OF AIRSPACE" WAS A REFERENCE TO THE AIR CONTROL ZONE AROUND LEMNOS.)

B. SECURITY QUESTIONS. THE GREEKS SUGGESTED THAT THE NATO AIR DEFENSE CROSSTELL SYSTEM COULD BE BILATERALLY APPLIED BY BOTH COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO EASE THE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF EACH. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE EXPERTS WOULD DISCUSS THIS QUESTION.

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C. THE GREEK CLAIM TO A 10-MILE AIRSPACE. BATU CONFIRMED THAT ELEKDAG HAD TAKEN A VERY STRONG LINE ON THIS MATTER. HE SAID THE TURKS ARE WORRIED THAT THE GREEKS ARE TRYING TO SET UP A LINKAGE BETWEEN THE AIRSPACE AND TERRITORIAL SEA ISSUES AND THAT AT SOME POINT, THE GREEKS MIGHT OFFER TO TRADE TURKISH ACCEPTANCE OF A 10MILE

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----072291 101354Z /41

O R 101150Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2562
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 5041

EXDIS

MIL ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

AIRSPACE IN RETURN FOR GREEK AGREEMENT TO REDUCE ITS
TERRITORIAL SEA CLAIM FROM 12 ILES TO 10 MILES. BATU
SAID ELEKDAG HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT
ALLOW ANY SUCH LINKAGE BETWEEN THESE TWO QUESTIONS.

5. THE TURKS FOUND THE GREEKS "VERY CONCILIATORY"
ON THE FIRST TWO POINTS ABOVE. TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO
ATHENS TEZEL LATER TOLD BATU THAT HE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE
TO GET EXPERT DISCUSSIONS ON THE FIR QUESTION UNDERWAY BY
THE END OF THIS MONTH.

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6. APPARENTLY SIMILAR PROGRESS WAS NOT MADE ON THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE. BATU SAID HE "GOT TIRED" OF
LISTENING TO THE TWO SIDES REITERATE THEIR RESPECTIVE POSI-
TIONS. NONETHELESS THEY HAD AGREED THAT NEGOTIATIONS
WOULD RESUME BEFORE THE SECGENS MET AGAIN. BATU THOUGHT
THAT BILGE AND TZOUNIS WOULD AGAIN BE THE LIKELY INTERLOCUTORS,
THOUGH THIS WILL BE FIXED LATER THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

7. IN LINE WITH AN EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH BATU ON
POSSIBLE "CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES", BATU SAID ECEVIT
HAD RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING OR CONFERENCE
BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH JOURNALISTS. THIS IDEA APPARENTLY
HAD BEEN ADVANCED JOINTLY EARLIER THIS YEAR BY MILLIYET
COLUMNIST ABDI IPEKCI AND KATHIMERINI COLUMNIST GEORGE
DROSSOS BUT FOR SOME REASON HAD BEEN SIDETRACKED.
THEODOROPOULOS HAD ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOMED THE IDEA AND
PROMISED TO RESPOND WITH GREEK IDEAS. ALONG THE SAME
LINES, BATU SAID THE TURKISH MFA HAS JUST RECEIVED A
RECOMMENDATION FROM NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS THAT GREECE
AND TURKEY ESTABLISH A PERMANENT INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD MEET ALTERNATIVELY IN THE TWO
CAPITALS TO DISCUSS COMMON PROBLEMS. BATU THOUGHT HIS
GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME THIS IDEA AND HOPED TO BE ABLE
SHORTLY TO COMMUNICATE TURKISH INTEREST AND APPROVAL TO
ATHENS.

8. BATU CONFIRMED THAT THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF CYPRUS OR MINORITY QUESTIONS. ASKED WHETHER GREEK REINTEGRATION INTO NATO HAD COME UP, BATU SAID IT HAD NOT.

9. GREEK EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY KATSAREAS JULY 7 DESCRIBED THE ATMOSPHERICS OF THE MEETINGS IN SIMILAR TONES
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AS THOSE OF BATU AND ELEKDAG. HE ALSO USED THE WORDS "CONSTRUCTIVE AND BUSINESSLIKE" TO DESCRIBE THE CONDUCT OF THE TURKISH DELEGATION. HE CHARACTERIZED THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS AS LARGELY "PROCEDURAL", AND CONFIRMED THAT NEITHER SIDE TABLED A DRAFT DOCUMENT OR TREATY REGARDING NON-AGGRESSION AND FRIENDSHIP. WHILE HE DID NOT GO INTO THE SAME DETAIL, HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE TALKS WAS NOT AT VARIANCE FROM THAT WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE TURKS. REGARDING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND TERRITORIAL SEA ISSUE, KATSAREAS SAID THE GREEK DELEGATION HAD REITERATED ITS POSITION THAT THE PARTIES SHOULD HAVE RECOURSE TO THE WORLD COURT IF UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT THROUGH BILATERAL TALKS. THE TURKISH DELEGATION HAD REITERATED ITS DESIRES TO SETTLE THE ISSUE THROUGH BILATERAL TALKS BUT HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY RULED OUT AN EVENTUAL RECOURSE TO THE COURT.

10. COMMENT: BATU'S EXPRESSION OF TURKISH WILLINGNESS TO SIGN A POLITICAL AGREEMENT IN THE ABSENCE OF FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE TWO AEGEAN QUESTIONS SEEMS INCONSISTENT WITH THE LINKAGE ESTABLISHED IN POINT FOUR OF THE FIVE-POINT TURKISH "PROGRAM FOR PEACE" DESCRIBED BY ELKDAG (REFTEL). WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT ELKDAG ONLY SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON THESE QUESTIONS WOULD PROCEED SIMULTANEOUSLY, NOT THAT FINAL AGREEMENT MUST BE ACHIEVED SIMULTANEOUSLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, BATU TENDS IN GENERAL TO GIVE THE MOST POSITIVE CONSTRUCTION POSSIBLE TO TURKISH POSITIONS, AND THE TURKS THEMSELVES MAY NOT KNOW IN ADVANCE WHETHER THEY WOULD BE WILLING, IN THE END, TO SEPARATE THE ISSUES. WE EXPECT THAT ELEKDAG HAS ACCURATELY DESCRIBED THE TURKISH NEGOTIATING POSITION, AND THAT THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN LINKAGE AMONG THE THREE ISSUES WHEN THE SECGENS NEXT MEET. DILLON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETING REPORTS, NONAGGRESSION AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ANKARA05041
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780289-0513
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780781/aaaacqhl.tel
Line Count: 266
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5c94e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 ANKARA 4978
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2075489
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON GREEK AND TURKISH SECGENS MEETING
TAGS: PEPR, TU, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5c94e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014